

for praying and for gathering with family members. This still holds true today because African Americans continue to face many challenges that call for prayer and gathering together with one's family and community.

When the celebration of Juneteenth originated, a range of activities were offered to entertain the masses, many of which continue in tradition today. Rodeos, fishing, barbecuing and baseball are just a few of the typical Juneteenth activities that one may witness or participate in today. This is an historic and important commemoration for Texas but also for the Nation. This Holiday equals freedom. I applaud all of the events sponsored by Houstonians that seeks to inspire and educate our children and to respect the former slaves of Texas who suffered so much.

#### HONORING LYDIA ZUIDEMA

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 17, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lydia Zuidema of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Lydia is active in the community through her work and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Woman in the Workplace.

Lydia is the superintendent and a teacher at St. Joseph Christian School. She instituted the school's National Institute for Learning Development program and has traveled to Afghanistan and South Africa to train other teachers. In Afghanistan, she helped staff and faculty prepare to receive accreditation; in South Africa, she trained early childhood educators. She never wavers from her sense of peace and calm, which comes from her great love for and dedication to the Lord.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Lydia Zuidema. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph Community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

#### HONORING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ON ITS 140TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

#### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res 1422, Honoring the Department of Justice on the occasion of its 140th anniversary. I would also like to commend Representative SENSENBRENNER for his commitment to recognizing the department for its many accomplishments.

The Department of Justice officially began operations on July 1, 1870 and has been responsible for the enforcement of law and administration of justice for 140 years. The Department of Justice was a major advocate and protector for voting rights in the Southern United States and Georgia during the Civil Rights Era. The Department used its litigators to fight racial injustice throughout the Southern

United States. The work of the Department of Justice served in part as inspiration for President Johnson to sign the Voting Rights Act of 1965 into law.

The Department of Justice is innately close to my heart. My father worked for many years in the Bureau of Prisons, a subdivision of the Department of Justice, and was the director of classifications and paroles. He was at that time the highest ranking African-American in the bureau. Today the department is headed by Attorney General Eric Holder, the first African-American man to hold this position in the department's 140 year history. It is ironic that the Department charged with justice for all people took more than a century in order to name an African-American citizen as its leader; however his nomination serves as an indication of progress and change.

The Department of Justice has championed many successful initiatives including Project Safe Neighborhoods, Project Safe Childhood, and the Presidents Corporate Fraud Task Force. Together these initiatives have resulted in increased protection and safety for our nation's children, as well as record convictions for financial crimes. The Department of Justice has made a significant impact in the state of Georgia through the Southeast Regional Fugitive Force operating out of offices in Atlanta and Macon, Georgia. The SERFTF is recognized nationwide as a leader in fugitive investigations.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to applaud the accomplishments of the Department of Justice on the occasion of its 140th anniversary and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I challenge the Department of Justice to continue its mission of pursuing the administration of justice for all people in the United States.

#### HONORING PATRICK CREER

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 17, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Patrick Creer upon his retirement from the California Highway Patrol, Oakhurst Area Office. Officer Creer will officially retire on June 30, 2010 after 28 years of service.

Officer Creer graduated from Simi Valley High School in 1972. He served in the United States Air Force from 1976 through 1982. After completing his service in the military, Officer Creer was appointed to the California Highway Patrol academy in 1982. Upon graduating from the academy, he was assigned to the Santa Cruz Area Office.

In 1988 Officer Creer was transferred to the Fresno Area Office. After serving 6 years in Fresno, he was transferred to the Central Division, where he worked in the recruitment unit for 9 years. In 2003, Officer Creer was transferred to the newly opened Oakhurst Area Office.

Officer Creer has been married to his wife, Vicki, for 34 years. They have 1 son, Matthew.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Patrick Creer for his tremendous service to the State of California upon his retirement from the California Highway Patrol. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Officer Creer many years of continued success.

#### HONORING LIEUTENANT ROBERT REYNOLDS

#### HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 17, 2010*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Lieutenant Robert Reynolds of the Worcester Fire Department. Lieutenant Reynolds is retiring after 24 years of dedicated service to the City of Worcester.

As with any public service profession, the nobility inherent in fire fighters should not be overlooked. These brave people, bound by duty and honor, risk their own health and safety in order to protect the lives and property of others. This sense of duty was undoubtedly felt by Mr. Reynolds when he joined the department at the age of 34, and certainly it continued to grow even after being promoted to Lieutenant.

Not only has Lieutenant Reynolds served his community during his career as fire fighter, he has served his country as a U.S. Marine. The leap from Marine to firefighter is no difficult to imagine; to be effective in either profession requires strength of character of immeasurable quantities. It is Lieutenant Reynolds's character that led him to his distinguished career, and it is that character that I would like to honor as he enters a well deserved retirement among his family—his wife Elizabeth and two children, Margo E. (Reynolds) Clark and Bridget J. Reynolds.

I know all of my colleagues join me in thanking Lieutenant Reynolds for his service to the City of Worcester and its citizens.

#### HONORING KARLI SAMPLE

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 17, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Karli Sample of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Karli is active in the community through her school and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Future Leader Award.

Karli has held several leadership roles, has been involved in athletics and fine arts programs, is committed to being a volunteer, and has maintained a weighted GPA of 4.5, ranking second in her class. Karli's honors include being selected homecoming queen, a Drug Free Super STAR, a Cotillion for Achievement finalist, a DAR Good Citizen, and a Wendy's Heisman state finalist. She won six state engineering competitions and qualified for nationals each year.

Karli's nominator states, "Karli Sample has made the most out of her four high school years by staying actively and consistently involved in school and community activities. . . . Karli's spirit and positive attitude have inspired many to follow in the same footsteps, whether it be on the court, in the classroom, or out in the community."

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Karli Sample. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in and beyond the St. Joseph Community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.